

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 00991 110242Z

67

ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-02 EB-07 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CG-00

DLOS-03 DOTE-00 SCA-01 SCS-03 /051 W

----- 101701

O 110152Z FEB 75 ZFF6

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4391

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0991

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, PLOS, EC, US

SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF U.S. TUNA VESSELS: PROPOSED LETTER TO MINISTER
OF NATURAL RESOURCES

1. EVENING FEB. 10, ADCM DISCUSSED STATUS OF VESSEL RELEASE WITH SUBSECRETARY FOR FISHERIES ETIEL RODRIGUEZ. IN ADDITION TO IMPRESSING UPON RODRIGUEZ URGENCY WE ASCRIBE TO PROMPT RESOLUTION THIS MATTER, ADCM INQUIRED ABOUT STATUS OF GUY-BACK ARRANGEMENT. RODRIGUEZ RESPONDED THAT IN ORDER FOR MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO BE ABLE TO FINALIZE BUY-BACK DEAL, HE WOULD LIKE A LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR TO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES ON THIS SUBJECT. ADCM RESPONDED THAT ANY LETTER FROM EMBASSY WOULD HAVE TO AVOID GIVING IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE FORMALLY PROPOSING SUCH A DEAL AND COULD AT MOST REFLECT OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT TALKS ALONG THESE LINES WERE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE STATE FISHING CORPORATION (EPNA) AND OWNERS REPRESENTATIVES. RODRIGUEZ SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS.

2. AMBASSADOR THEREFORE PLANS TO DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER TO SUB SECRETARY RODRIGUEZ AT 9:00 A.M. LOCAL, FEB. 11, UNLESS DEPARTMENT ADVISES TO THE CONTRARY.

BEGIN TEXT

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 00991 110242Z

I REFER TO THE SEVEN UNITED STATES-FLAG TUNA VESSELS CURRENTLY

UNDER DETENTION AT SALINAS.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER IS TO CONFIRM TO YOU MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE HAVE BEEN INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VESSEL OWNERS AND THE ECUADOREAN STATE FISHING CORPORATION (EPNA) REGARDING TERMS GOVERNING THE VESSELS' DEPARTURE. I FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT AMONG THE POSSIBILITIES BEING EXPLORED IS A PROVISION WHEREBY THE VESSELS WOULD BE PERMITTED TO DEPART RETAINING THE CATCH ON BOARD AT THE TIME OF THEIR DETENTION, PROVIDED AN ADDITIONAL SUM IS PAID.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, MY PRINCIPAL AS WELL AS THE PRESENT CONCERN, WHICH HAS BEEN EXPRESSED TO YOUR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, IS THAT THIS MATTER BE SETTLED AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE VESSELS IN QUESTION MAY DEPART SALINAS. I AM SURE YOU UNDERSTAND AND SHARE MY DEEP CONCERN FOR THE MORALE AND WELL-BEING OF THE CREWS OF THE VESSELS INVOLVED, SOME OF WHOM HAVE NOW BEEN CONFINED TO PORT SEVENTEEN DAYS. IT THEREFORE IS MY STRONG HOPE AND URGENT REQUEST THAT, DESPITE THE FACT THAT TODAY IS AN ECUADOREAN HOLIDAY, YOUR MINISTRY WILL TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO RESOLVE THIS MATTER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE. END TEXT.

3. FYI: PROPOSED TEXT OF LETTER HAS BEEN CLEARED WITH STARKIST REPRESENTATIVE NIZITICH WHO INTENDS TO INFORM ZAPATA REPRESENTATIVE SOUZA ASAP.
BREWSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TUNA, SHIP DETENTION, FISH, CONFISCATION, FISHING BOATS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975QUITO00991
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750048-0806
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750253/aaaabvxc.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <11 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEIZURE OF U.S. TUNA VESSELS: PROPOSED LETTER TO MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES
TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, PLOS, CGEN, EC, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006